

'Job Well Done'

For America's Expeditionary Training Center

It has been a year since the 7th Army Training Command successfully conducted the Two-Minute Drill to help prepare the 1st Armored Division for their deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom, and since that time the 7th ATC has continued to provide the best possible training to the 1st Infantry Division and other U.S. Army, Europe, and V Corps units rotating into the Central Command theater of operations.

There can be no question that the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels Training Complex has made a difference in the past year, nor is there any doubt that we will continue to make a difference in the years to come. Each and every one of the Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and contract employees of the 7th ATC needs to understand that what you do every day is having a positive impact in the Global War on Terrorism. I want to personally commend you and thank you for your efforts.

One thing that the best Soldiers instinctively know is that in a moment of victory you need to tighten your chin strap and get yourself prepared for the next mission.

For us in the 7th ATC, this means that although we have successfully trained up the 1st Infantry Division to replace the 1st Armored Division, and successfully conducted mission readiness exercises for the Kosovo and Bosnia peace support operations, we still have a big job in front of us.

As the European Command transforms into a more expeditionary force, so too the 7th ATC will transform to become America's Expeditionary Training Center.



photo by Spc. Kristine S. Smedley

As the Expeditionary Training Center, we must challenge ourselves, and our subordinates, to think of new ways of delivering training to Soldiers. This will begin with the retraining of the 1st Armored Division, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and other V Corps elements as they complete their reintegration from Iraq.

Be excited about the opportunities that retraining gives us to try out some of our new ideas, such as the deployment of mobile training teams. This ability to take our training on the road will be showcased in an upcoming training event in Bulgaria and during Exercise Immediate Response in Poland with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Another of the challenges that will face the Expeditionary Training Center in the future will be training

our NATO partners as they step forward to take a more active role in the Global War on Terrorism. Whether it be training them on the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels Training Complex, or taking the training to them with our mobile training teams, this partnership training will happen, and the 7th ATC will make it happen.

As we continue to prepare our Soldiers and those of our NATO partners for operations worldwide, you can take great pride in the knowledge that nearly every USAREUR Soldier who is now deployed to contingency and peace-keeping operations came to the 7th ATC for live-fire training, maneuver training, simulation training and leadership training.

The unprecedented success that our Army has witnessed in the past year is very much tied to your efforts. I am very proud of each one of you, and am very excited to be part this great team as the 7th ATC transitions to become the premier Expeditionary Training Center in the world.

Robert M. Williams
Brigadier General
Commander, 7th ATC